

# THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



A LIST OF REFERENCES



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An extensively revised and enlarged version of a list first published in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, v. 37, Dec. 15-22, 1978.

COVER: *Reverse of a fifth- or sixth-century bronze devotional medallion now in the Vatican Museum. The Virgin, seated in a chair, holds the infant Jesus and receives the homage of the Wise Men. Behind the chair is a palm tree; near the star, a dove carries an olive branch. Below, two stags drink at a spring. From "Le Medaglie di devozione dei primi sei o sette secoli della chiesa," by Giovanni Battista de Rossi, in his Bullettino di archeologia cristiana, anni 7, magg./giugno 1869.*

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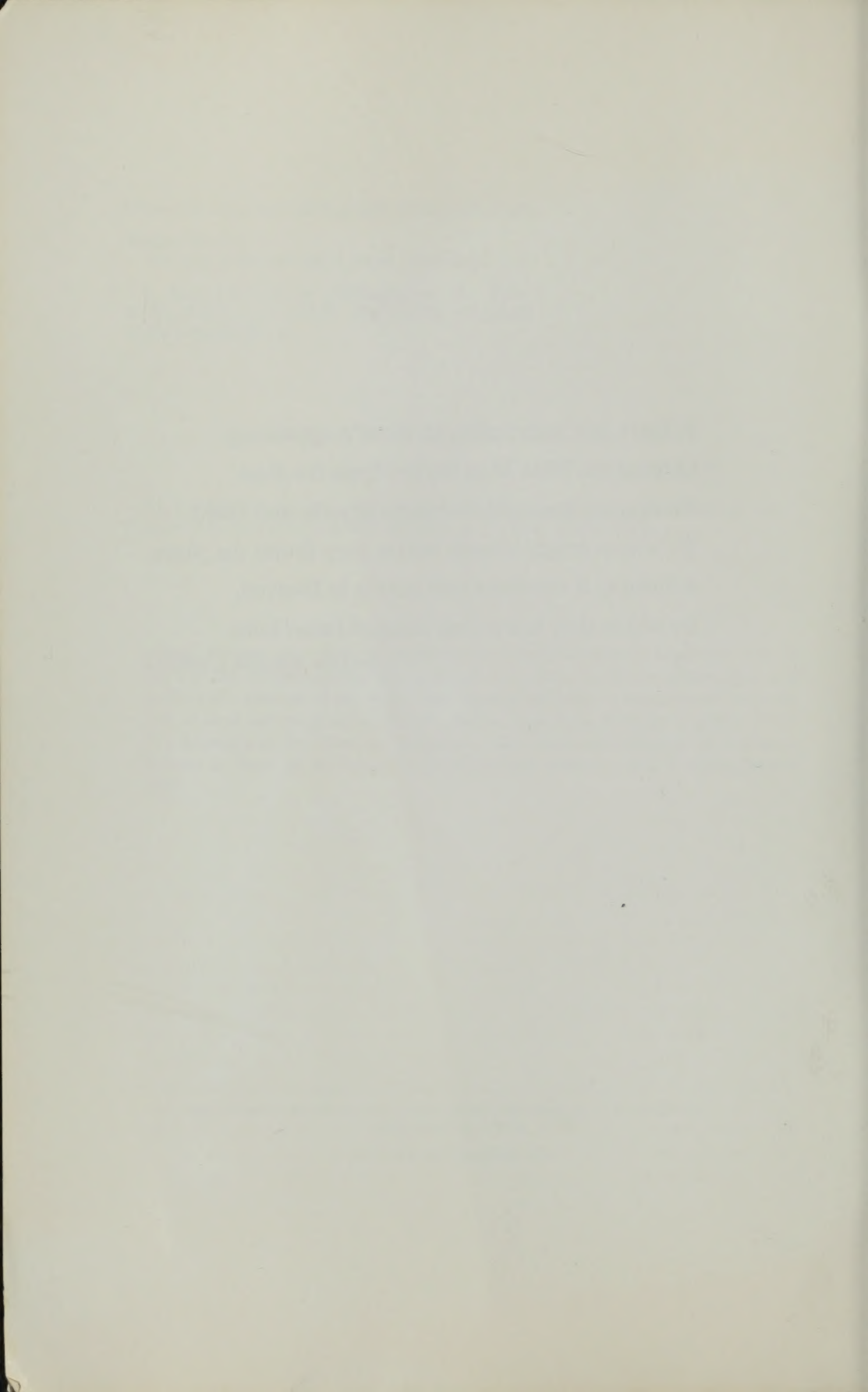
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A Starr, not seen before in Heav'n appearing  
Guided the Wise Men thither from the East,  
To honour thee with Incense, Myrrh, and Gold,  
By whose bright course led on they found the place,  
Affirming it thy Starr new grav'n in Heaven,  
By which they knew thee King of *Israel* born.

*Paradise Regain'd*, I, 249-254



## INTRODUCTION

The star seen by the Wise Men, as described in the Gospel of Matthew, has been a perennial source of wonder. It has engaged the interest of historians and chronologists striving to determine the exact year of Christ's birth, theologians and exegetes attempting to plumb its significance, orientalisks seeking to place the story in the context of the astrological beliefs of the time, and astronomers hoping to explain the phenomenon in a natural way.

The writings generated by researches and speculations on the nature of the star are very numerous, but even the best efforts of the most erudite scholars have failed to settle the matter. Matthew is our only scriptural source of information, and such details as he gives do not permit of a completely satisfactory natural explanation. The controversy, and the publishing, are likely to continue for the duration of Christendom.

Many scholars, including some distinguished astronomers, have concluded that the star was a miracle, thus disposing summarily of the difficulties presented by Matthew's terse account. Others, beginning with Origen, have suggested a variety of possibilities, encompassing nearly every kind of object the heavens display: a comet, or two comets; a bright meteor; a dense meteor shower; Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus, singly or in a grouping of two or more; a nova or a supernova; one of the brighter fixed stars; a constellation, for example, Gemini, Virgo, or the Southern Cross; the zodiacal light; or a combination of two or more of these. Arguments have been presented for all and against most of them, and the search for a better solution goes on.

One of the most widely accepted explanations of the star involves the triple or great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation Pisces that took place during 7 B.C. It has found favor because the time of its occurrence is about right and also because it can be shown that the Wise Men might have interpreted its significance as foretelling the birth of a king of the Jews, possibly a messianic king. Students of Babylonian astrology tell us that Jupiter was the royal planet, while Saturn governed the fate of the Hebrews, and the sign of Pisces, the last in the zodiac, was concerned with Palestine (alternatively, with the last days or the end of the world). The idea of the importance of the conjunction seems to have originated with Kepler. It was strongly rein-



forced in the 1820s when Bishop Münter found in a commentary on Daniel by the fifteenth-century Jewish scholar Don Isaac Abravanel a detailed presentation of his belief that a great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in 1464 would prove to have heralded the birth of a messiah. To satisfy objections based on the fact that Matthew consistently speaks of one star, not several, some commentators have tried to show that the word he used could have connoted a grouping. Others declare that Jupiter (or Saturn) alone was the star of the Magi, or else that a new star appeared in the same region of the sky to serve this purpose, once the conjunction had attracted the Wise Men's attention.

Interest in the star of Bethlehem, as reflected in the literature, has occasionally been heightened by fresh developments, such as the appearance of new stars in 1572 and 1604, the translation into Western languages of Chinese astronomical records in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the search for the "pilgrim star" in the 1880s, the return of Halley's Comet in 1910, the establishment during the 1920s and 1930s of planetariums in many European and U.S. cities, the publication during the same period of cuneiform tablets relating to the 7 B.C. triple conjunction, and a similar conjunction that occurred in 1940-41.

The strangest of these occasions, however, involves the so-called pilgrim star (the name seems to have originated with Cornelius Gemma). In a short work on Tycho's star published in 1573, the Bohemian astronomer Cyprianus Leovitius stated that bright stars had appeared at the same place in the sky in the years 945 and 1264. His source was a book which has not been identified. Building on this rather uncertain foundation it was suggested, perhaps by Cardano, that this supposed variable—with a period of about 315 years—had been at a bright stage near the beginning of the Christian era and was therefore the star seen by the Wise Men. On this assumption, another brightening could be expected during the 1880s. Numerous articles appeared in the popular press, and science writers and astronomers received many inquiries from the public about the imminent reappearance of the star of Bethlehem. A close watch was kept on the appropriate part of the sky (in the constellation Cassiopeia) during most of the decade, but the anticipated flare-up did not take place, and nothing has been heard of the notion since. The stars of 945 and 1264 cited by Leovitius were probably comets; and present-day findings concerning the catastrophic nature of supernovae strongly suggest that Tycho's star will never again be visible to the naked eye.

More recently, a renewed interest has been shown in an object observed by Chinese astronomers in 5 B.C. The annals of the Former Han Dynasty record what was probably a new star that appeared in



the spring of the year in the constellation Capricornus, remaining visible for seventy days. Although the Chinese history calls it a comet, this may be an error, because the customary description of its motion across the sky is lacking. A late eighteenth-century Latin translation already identified it as a "stella nova," according to Wieseler, who (although he dated it in 4 B.C.) believed it might have been the star of the Magi. Among other writers who have connected this phenomenon, whether as a comet or as a nova, with the Christmas star are Fresa and Lundmark. In 1977 three English astronomers (Clark, Parkinson, and Stephenson) argued persuasively that it was indeed a nova and as such the most likely explanation of the star of Bethlehem.

The materials described below were identified through indexes to general, astronomical, and religious periodicals, as well as in library catalogs, encyclopedias, subject bibliographies, and lists of references and footnotes found in the works cited. Popular and scholarly treatments of the nature of the star of Bethlehem are included; works of poetry and fiction, iconographic studies, and discourses confined to other aspects of the star have been omitted. A few articles are very brief, and many merely rehearse earlier suggestions and findings without contributing anything new. It was felt that some of these derivative writings might be the only ones available in small libraries, and that therefore it was worthwhile to list them. National Union Catalog symbols (see the key on p. ix) are used wherever possible to locate copies of monographs not held by the Library of Congress; the location symbols for journal articles and serials, however, indicate only the libraries in the Washington, D.C., area where issues were seen by the compiler. The *Union List of Serials* and *New Serial Titles* should be consulted for additional locations. A few entries not seen by the compiler have been included on the basis of their citation in authoritative sources.

The compiler wishes to express thanks to Von Del Chamberlain, chief of the Presentations Division at the National Air and Space Museum, and Brenda G. Corbin, librarian of the U.S. Naval Observatory Library, for their generous assistance, as well as to the staff of the Mullen Library of the Catholic University of America and the British Library (Reference Division) for their hospitality.



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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

## *Library of Congress*

DLC	Uncataloged material
Micro	Microform Reading Room
N&CPR	Newspaper & Current Periodical Room

## *Other Libraries*

CBGTU	Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.
CBPac	Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif.
CSdS	San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif.
CU	University of California, Berkeley, Calif.
CtY	Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
DCU	Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
DDO	Dumbarton Oaks Research Library of Harvard University, Washington, D.C.
DN-Ob	U.S. Department of the Navy, Naval Observatory, Wash- ington, D.C.
DSI	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
ICJ	John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.
ICN	Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
ICRL	Center for Research Libraries, Chicago, Ill.
ICU	University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
IU	University of Illinois, Urbana
IaU	University of Iowa, Iowa City
MB	Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.
MH	Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
MH-AH	— Andover-Harvard Theological Library
MdBP	Enoch Pratt Free Library, George Peabody Branch, Balti- more, Md.



MnCS	Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minn.
NIC	Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.
NN	New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.
NNC	Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
NNM	American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y.
NcD	Duke University, Durham, N.C.
NcU	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
NjNbS	New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N.J.
NjPT	Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.
OCH	Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio
OCIW	Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
ODaStL	Saint Leonard College, Dayton, Ohio
OO	Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
OkU	University of Oklahoma, Norman
PLatS	Saint Vincent College and Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa.
PPAmP	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.
PPL	Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.
PPLT	Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.
PPStCh	Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pa.
PPWe	Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.
PPeSchw	Schwenkfelder Historical Library, Pennsburg, Pa.
PU	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
TxDAm	Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex.
TxDAm-P	—— Perkins School of Theology
WWhiwU	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater

THE  
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The Nativity, a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), from his series *The Little Passion* (1508-1510). Prints and Photographs Division.



Adler Planetarium and Astronomical Museum, *Chicago*. What was the star of Bethlehem? *Christianity today*, v. 9, Dec. 18, 1964: 277–280.  
BR1.C6418, v. 9

Taken from a pamphlet published by the planetarium and prepared by members of its professional staff.

A planetary conjunction is regarded as the most likely of the various possibilities, but “Many of us believe the Star to have been a miracle, and thus utterly incapable of explanation.”

Alford, Henry. 2. *autou ton aster*. In *Bible. N.T. Greek. 1871*. The Greek Testament, with . . . a critical and exegetical commentary. v. 1. Containing the four Gospels. 7th ed. London, Rivingtons, 1874. p. 10–12 (2d group) BS1965 1871, v. 1

Supports a natural explanation for the star and accepts the triple conjunction of 7 B.C. as the phenomenon that brought the Wise Men to Jerusalem.

Alter, Dinsmore. The Christmas star. *Griffith observer*, v. 4, Dec. 1940: 146–147. QB1.G7, v. 4

“The Journey of the Magi,” a painting by Sassetta, is reproduced on the cover.

Reprinted in v. 12, Dec. 1948, p. 138–140.

Anger, Rudolf. *Der Stern der Weisen und das Geburtsjahr Christi; eine chronologische Untersuchung*. *Zeitschrift für die historische Theologie*, 7. Bd., 3. Heft, 1847: 347–398.

————— Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1847. 56 p. MH-AH

Bibliographic footnotes.

A searching examination of the theory that the star of Bethlehem was connected in some way with the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in 7 B.C., and the support for this idea found by Bishop Münter in Abravanel’s commentary on Daniel. Anger was unable to trace the idea of such a conjunction’s heralding a messiah further back than the eleventh century.

Appel, Theodore. The star of the East. *Bibliotheca sacra*, v. 35, Jan. 1878: 147–178. BR1.B8, v. 35

Supports the nova hypothesis.

Argentieri, Domenico. *Nuova determinazione della cronologia neotestamentaria e identificazione della stella dei Magi con la cometa di Halley*. Aquila, Unione editrice Scrutamini Scripturas, 1914. 35 p.

Argentieri, Domenico. Quando visse Cristo? Prolegomeni ad ogni vita di Cristo. Milano, Fratelli Bocca, 1945. 179 p. plates. (Piccola biblioteca di scienze moderne, n. 482) BT303.A7

Tries to show that Christ was born in 11 B.C. and that Halley's Comet was the star seen by the Wise Men. A briefer presentation, "Un grande problema della storia: quando nacque e quando morì Gesù Cristo," appears in the *Atti* of the Società italiana per il progresso delle scienze, 23, v. 2 (Roma, 1935. Q54.S6, v. 23, 2), p. 267-270.

Asimov, Isaac. The star. *In his* Asimov's guide to the Bible. v. 2. The New Testament. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1969. p. 128-130. BS635.2.A8, v. 2

Considers Halley's Comet or a planetary conjunction the likeliest candidates, and points out that the story of the star might be based on recollections set down several decades after the event.

Asimov, Isaac. Star in the East. Magazine of fantasy and science fiction, v. 47, Dec. 1974: 117-127. AP2.M2344, v. 47

Discusses nine possible explanations. Reprinted in *The Planet That Wasn't* (Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1976. Q171.A715), p. [183]-194.

Azcuy, Eduardo A. La "estrella" y el hijo de la luz. *In his* El legado extrahumano. [Barcelona] A.T.E. [1976] p. 121-138. BL254.A9

Ballantyne, J. W. The star in the East. Expository times, v. 28, Apr. 1917: 327. BS410.E8, v. 28

Refers to "Professor Lauth's theory identifying the star of Bethlehem with the dogstar Sirius which rose heliacally on the first of the Egyptian month Messori for four years in succession (B.C. 5, 4, 3, and 2)" and offers a suggestion in support of this identification.

Barry, Catharine E. The star of the Magi. Sky and telescope, v. 7, Dec. 1947: 42-43. illus. QB1.S536, v. 7

Barton, William H. The Christmas star. Sky, v. 4, Dec. 1939: 3-5. illus., port. QB1.S535, v. 4

Barton, William H. Christmas story. Sky and telescope, v. 1, Dec. 1941: 9-11. illus. QB1.S536, v. 1

Barton, William H. Origin of the first Xmas: what was the star of Bethlehem? *Sky*, v. 1, Dec. 1936: 3, 13, 24. illus. QB1.S535, v. 1

Barton, William H. The star of Bethlehem. *Sky*, v. 2, Dec. 1937: 4–7. illus. QB1.S535, v. 2

Barton, William H. Star of the East. *Christian Science monitor*, v. 33, Nov. 30, 1940, weekly magazine section: 14–15. illus. N&CPR

Barton, William H. The Wise Men's star. *Sky*, v. 5, Dec. 1940: 6–7, 22. illus. QB1.S535, v. 5

Bauer, Georg K. Der Stern der Weisen. In *his Sternkunde und Stern-deutung der Deutschen im 9.–14. Jahrhundert, unter Ausschluss der reinen Fachwissenschaft*. Berlin, E. Ebering, 1937. (Germanische Studien, Hft. 186) p. 76–78. QB25.B3

Beard, John R. Star in the East. In *Kitto, John, ed. A cyclopaedia of biblical literature*. v. 2. New York, M. H. Newman, 1846. p. 793–795. BS440.K5 1846, v. 2

Includes bibliographic references.

A slightly shortened version appears in the 3d ed., v. 3 (Edinburgh, A. and C. Black, 1866. BS440.K5 1862, v. 3), p. 890–891.

Bell, Walter G. The star of Bethlehem. *Temple magazine*, v. 3, Dec. 1898: 226–230. illus. AP4.T43, v. 3

“The object of the writer is solely to recapitulate the work which has been done by many learned men . . .” Concludes that the apparition “was a vision wholly miraculous.”

Benecke, Paul V. M. Magi. In *Hastings, James, and others, eds. A dictionary of the Bible*. v. 3. New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1900. p. 203–206. BS440.H5 1898, v. 3

Includes bibliographic references.

The problem of the star is discussed on p. 204–205.

Bernhard, Hubert J., and Richard A. Steeg. The Christmas star. pt. 1 by Hubert J. Bernhard. pt. 2 by Richard A. Steeg. [Oakland, Calif.] Stellar Ventures [1974] 32 p. illus. WWhiwU

Bilt, Jan van der. De ster der Wijzen. *Hemel en dampkring*, 38. jaarg., juli/aug. 1940: 265–269. QB1.N43, v. 38

Bibliographic footnotes.



Blair, H. A. The signs of the nativity. *Church quarterly review*, v. 160, Jan./Mar. 1959: 4-10. BR1.C685, v. 160

Includes bibliographic references.

Deals chiefly with the star of Bethlehem and efforts to explain it.

Blythe, LeGette. [The star of Bethlehem] *In his* When was Jesus born? [Illus. by Jane T. Frye. Charlotte, N.C.] Charlotte Pub. [1974] p. 25, 27, 29-31, 33-35. illus. BT318.B56

Boll, Franz J. Der Stern der Weisen. *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*, 18. Jahrg., Heft 1/2, 1917: 40-48.

BS410.Z6, v. 18

Bibliographic footnotes.

From a background of nearly thirty years' study of astronomy and astrology in antiquity, the author concludes that the information provided in the Gospel of Matthew is insufficient for a satisfactory identification of the star. Reprinted in his *Kleine Schriften zur Sternkunde des Altertums* (Leipzig, Koehler & Amelang, 1950. QB16.B66), p. 135-142.

Bowman, Shadrach L. The Wise Men and the star. *In his* Historical evidence of the New Testament. An inductive study in Christian evidences. Cincinnati, Jennings and Pye [1903] p. 71-75. BS2375.B6

Bibliographic footnotes.

Brackbill, Maurice T. Bethlehem "star." *In his* The heavens declare. Chicago, Moody Press [1959] p. 69-75. BS655.B7

Branley, Franklyn M. The Christmas sky. Illustrated by Blair Lent. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co. [1966] [48] p. col. illus. BT315.2.B67

For children.

The text was also published in *Redbook*, v. 128, Dec. 1966, p. 45, 110-111 (AP2.R28, v. 128).

Brennan, Martin S. [The star of the Magi] *In his* The science of the Bible. St. Louis, Mo., B. Herder, 1898. p. 178-181. BS650.B7

Rejects natural explanations.

Brodrick, James. His star. *Tablet*, v. 181, Jan. 2, 1943: 7-8.

AP4.T17, v. 181

Brodrick, James. The star of Bethlehem: a puzzle to the astronomers, but not to us. *Tablet*, v. 194, Dec. 24, 1949: 448. AP4.T17, v. 194

Brophy, Liam. Follow that star. *Apostle*, v. 36, Dec. 1958: 4–5, 40. BV2300.M3A6, v. 36

Discusses four proposed explanations—a meteor, a comet, a nova, and a planetary conjunction—but judges that “Complete scientific explanation[s] of the star are still wanting. Mystery still surrounds it . . .”

Brown, Prudence. Star of wonder. *Connecticut*, v. 38, Dec. 1975: 46. F91.C26, v. 38

Includes comments by Carl Sagan and Isaac Asimov.

Brown, Raymond E. The Magi come to pay homage to the King of the Jews (§ 6). *In his* The birth of the Messiah; a commentary on the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1977. p. [165]–201. BS2575.2.B76

Bibliography: p. 200–201.

In his notes on the words “his star,” the author considers the three main explanations proposed—a nova, a comet, and a planetary conjunction—and regards the last as the most important.

Brown, Raymond E. The meaning of the Magi; the significance of the star. *Worship*, v. 49, Dec. 1975: 574–582. DCU

Discusses the story against the background of Old Testament prophecies. “If one wishes to invoke astronomy to explain Matthew 2, one should recognize the probable direction of the ancient thought pattern. *After* people came to believe in the risen Jesus as the Son of God, in retrospect they would begin to look for an astronomical phenomenon to associate with the birth of such a figure—and the result may have been a combination of vague memories of astronomical phenomena in the period 12–6 B.C. with the Old Testament imagery of the Davidic Star.”

Browne, Edythe H. The diamond in the sky. *Columbia*, v. 11, Dec. 1931: 14–15, 33. illus., port. Micro 04031

Accepts the identification with Tycho’s star; also discusses poetry, music, and paintings inspired by the star of Bethlehem.

Bruns, J. Edgar. The Magi episode in Matthew 2. Catholic biblical quarterly, v. 23, Jan. 1961: 51–54. BS410.C3, v. 23

Bibliographic footnotes.

Supports the Halley's Comet identification.

Bunsen, Christian K. J., *Freiherr* von. Der Stern der Magier. In *his* Bibelgeschichte. Das ewige Reich Gottes und das Leben Jesu. Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1865. (*His* Vollständiges Bibelwerk für die Gemeinde, 9 Bd.) p. 204–205. BS494.B7, v. 9

Considers that the story of the Wise Men is legendary rather than factual, despite the plausibility of the comet/new star of 750 A.U.C. cited by Wieseler.

Bunton, George W. The star of Bethlehem. [Honolulu, Bernice P. Bishop Museum Press, 1977] 20 p. illus., map. DN-Ob

References (12): p. 15.

Burke-Gaffney, Michael W. Kepler and the star of Bethlehem. In Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Journal, v. 31, Dec. 1937: 417–425. illus. QB1.R485, v. 31

Kepler believed that what the Wise Men saw “was not of the ordinary run of comets or new stars, but by a special miracle moved in the lower layer of the atmosphere” and that the great conjunction of 7 B.C. was “a harbinger of the miraculous star . . .”

Burrows, Eric. The star of the Magi. In *his* The oracles of Jacob and Balaam. London, Burns Oates & Washbourne [1938] (The Bellarmine series, 3) p. 97–100.

*The National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints* ascribes copies to some twenty U.S. libraries.

Bibliographic footnotes.

The author believes the star may well have been a comet, possibly Halley's in 12 B.C.

Callender, Sir Geoffrey A. R. The star of the Epiphany. Church quarterly review, v. 143, Jan./Mar. 1947: 135–161. BR1.C685, v. 143

Argues that the star was a nova.

Canton, William. The star of the Magi. Expositor, 5th ser., v. 9, June 1899: 465–472. BS410.E7, s. 5, v. 9

Responds to a letter from E. F. B., a missionary in Calcutta.



Chamberlain, Von Del. Star of wonder. American Red Cross youth news, v. 56, Dec. 1974: 20–22. col. illus. HV583.A1A5, v. 56

Chasapēs, Kōnstantinos S. Ho astēr tēs Bēthleem; astronomikos prosdi-orismos tou chronou tēs gennēseōs tou Iēsou Christou. Athēnai, Ekdoseis A. Karavia, 1970. 12, 285 p. illus., facsim., plates, port. BT315.2.C48

Summary in English (p. [257]–261).

Bibliography: p. [263]–268.

Christmas star. Science digest, v. 34, Dec. 1953: back cover. col. illus. Q1.S383, v. 34

Ciotti, Joseph E. The Magi's star: misconceptions and new suggestions. Griffith observer, v. 42, Dec. 1978: 2–11, 14. illus. DN-Ob

References (45): p. 14.

Among the new suggestions is that Uranus, which was within 20° of the area where Jupiter and Saturn were moving at the time of their triple conjunction in 7 B.C., may have been the star of Bethlehem. The author also explores the possibility of a nova that culminated at the zenith of Bethlehem about the time of Christ's birth.

Clark, David H., John H. Parkinson, and F. Richard Stephenson. An astronomical re-appraisal of the star of Bethlehem—a nova in 5 BC. In Royal Astronomical Society. Quarterly journal, v. 18, no. 4, 1977: 443–449. DN-Ob

References (12): p. 448–449.

A bright nova which appeared in the spring of 5 B.C. is regarded as the most likely explanation of the star of Bethlehem.

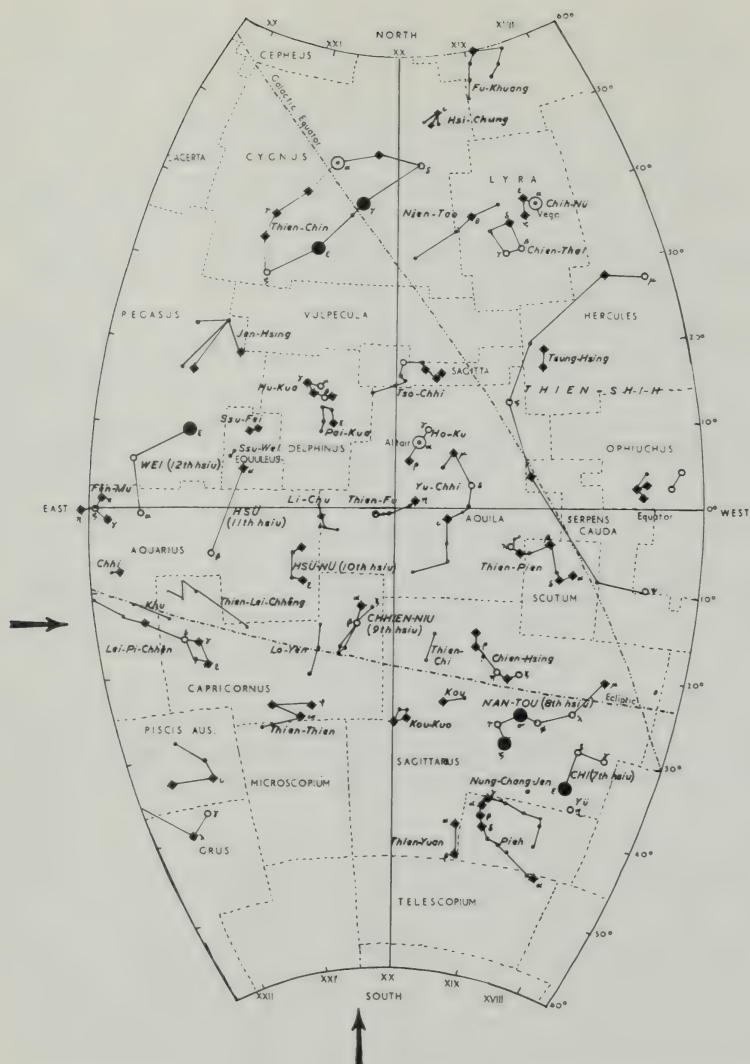
News reports describing these findings include “Nova in 5 BC Explains Star of Bethlehem,” in *New Scientist*, v. 76, Dec. 22/29, 1977, p. 765 (Q1.N52, v. 76) and an article by Walter Sullivan, “New View on Star of Bethlehem Suggests It Was Stellar Flare-up,” in the *New York Times* of Dec. 17, 1977, p. 1, 28 (N&CPR).

Clarke, Arthur C. What was the star of Bethlehem? Holiday, v. 16, Dec. 1954: 95–99, 101. illus. AP2.H592, v. 16

Supports the nova hypothesis.

Reprinted as “What Star Was This?” in the *Saturday Evening Post*, v. 248, Dec. 1976, p. 48–49, 96 (AP2.S2, v. 248).

An abridgment entitled “Does the Star of Bethlehem Still Shine?” appeared in the *Reader's Digest*, v. 66, Jan. 1955, p. 121–123 (AP2.R225, v. 66).



The nova of 5 B.C., often proposed as a likely explanation of the star of Bethlehem. This celestial chart showing Chinese constellations against the boundaries of Western constellations covers the sky from 18 to 22 hours in right ascension. Arrows point to the asterism Ch'ien-niu (herd boy), in which appeared the nova of 5 B.C. recorded in the Ch'ien Han Shu (annals of the Former Han Dynasty). From "Ancient and Mediaeval Observations of Comets and Novae in Chinese Sources," by Ho Peng Yoke, in *Vistas in Astronomy*, v. 5 (Oxford, New York, Pergamon Press, 1962), p. 218. Reprinted with permission of Pergamon Press, Ltd. Copyright © 1962.

Clerke, Ellen M. The star of Bethlehem. *In her* The planet Venus. London, Witherby, 1893. p. 50–59. QB621.C63

Discusses the conjunction theory and objections to it, and briefly recalls the popular excitement late in 1887, when Venus was particularly brilliant in the morning sky and expectations of the re-appearance of the star of Bethlehem were at their height.

Cole, D. I. The star of Bethlehem. *In* Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. Monthly notes, v. 23, Nov. 1964: 152–172. DN-Ob

References (16): p. 172.

Coles, Robert R. A Christmas fantasy. *Sky and telescope*, v. 6, Dec. 1946: 6–7, 22. illus. QB1.S536, v. 6

Coles, Robert R. The Christmas star. *Sky and telescope*, v. 5, Dec. 1945: 7–8. illus. QB1.S536, v. 5

Coles, Robert R., and Frances M. Frost. Star of wonder. Pictures by Paul Galdone. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. [1953] 48 p. illus. BT315.C55

For children.

Conniff, James C. G. Magi of Central Park West. *Columbia*, v. 32, Nov. 1952: 5, 18–19. illus. Micro 04031

On the Hayden Planetarium's Christmas show featuring the star of Bethlehem.

Corbishley, Thomas. "What is known of the star of Bethlehem?" *Scripture*, v. 3, Apr. 1948: 51–52. DCU

Suggests three explanations: a comet, a planetary conjunction, or a miraculous phenomenon.

Davidheiser, Bolton. The star of Bethlehem. *In his* Science and the Bible. Grand Rapids, Mich., Baker Book House [1971] p. 103–105. BS650.D265

"As all natural explanations fail, the only answer remaining is that this phenomenon was a supernatural one."

Davis, Donald D. What was the Christmas star? *Monthly evening sky map*, v. 54, Nov./Dec. 1960: 4–6. illus. QB1.M75, v. 54



[Davis, Singleton W.] The comet the "Star of Bethlehem." Humanitarian review, v. 8, June 1910: 713-714. BL2700.H8, v. 8

Rejects an assertion to this effect made by a Universalist minister.

Didon, Henri. The star. *In his* Jesus Christ; Our Saviour's person, mission, and spirit. From the French of the Reverend Father Didon. v. 2. New York, D. Appleton, 1891. p. 405-408. BT301.D55, v. 2

Includes bibliographic references.

First published as "L'Étoile" in his *Jésus Christ*, t. 2 (Paris, E. Plon, Nourrit, 1891. BT301.D53, v. 2), p. 390-393.

Dimbleby, Jabez B. The star of Bethlehem. *In his* The historical Bible, with straight-forward A.M. years and dates, obtained from five lines of astronomical time, for the use of students of scripture, Bible classes, historians and astronomers. London, E. Nister, 1897. p. 184-185. illus. BS637.D5

Finds attempts at natural explanations unsatisfactory and concludes that the star was a supernatural object.

Ebrard, Johannes H. A. Die Weisen aus dem Morgenlande. (Mt. 2.) *In his* Wissenschaftliche Kritik der evangelischen Geschichte. 3., gänzlich umgearb. Aufl. Frankfurt a.M., Heyder & Zimmer, 1868. p. 282-296. IaU; NjPT; OCIW

Bibliographic footnotes.

Most of the section is given over to a discussion of the star; the author agrees with Kepler's theory.

Edersheim, Alfred. The visit and homage of the Magi, and the flight into Egypt. (St. Matt. ii. 1-18.) *In his* The life and times of Jesus the Messiah. v. 1. 2d ed., stereotyped. New York, A. D. F. Randolph [1884] p. 202-216. Micro 68353 BT

Bibliographic footnotes.

The star is treated on p. 207-213.

Eichler, *Missionär*. Der Stern der Weisen und die chinesischen Zeittafel. Allgemeine Missions-Zeitschrift, 17. Bd., März 1890: 121-123. BV2354.A6, v. 17

Several writers having cited a Chinese record of a comet in 6 B.C. in support of a favored date for the birth of Christ, the author investigated Chinese sources and found so many comets recorded during the relevant period that he concludes they are useless for such a determination.

Elliott, Ian. The star of Bethlehem. *In* Royal Astronomical Society. Quarterly journal, v. 19, no. 4, 1978: 515–516. DN-Ob

Letter commenting on Clark, Parkinson, and Stephenson's study.

Emanuelli, Pio L. La stella dei Magi dal punto di vista astronomico. Roma, Bontempelli, 1913. 12 p.

First published in *Rassegna contemporanea*.

Ewing, Ann. Star of Bethlehem. Science news letter, v. 80, Dec. 9, 1961: 386–387. illus. Q1.S76, v. 80

“Astronomers have suggested several explanations for the Star of Bethlehem: a brilliant meteor, a comet, a supernova and an unusual configuration of planets.”

Farquharson, John F. The star of Bethlehem. *In* British Astronomical Association, *London*. Journal, v. 89, Dec. 1978: 8–20.

QB1.B75, v. 89

References (46): p. 19–20.

“It is submitted that the Star of Bethlehem was various phenomena which occurred over a period of several years commencing with the Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions of 7 BC; the Mars-Jupiter-Saturn conjunction of 6 BC; the comet/nova of 5 BC and the comet/nova of 4 BC.”

Farrar, Frederic W. The star. *In his* The life of Christ. [New ed.] New York, E. P. Dutton [1894?] p. 22–26. BT301.F2 1894

Bibliographic footnotes.

Concludes that the 7 B.C. triple conjunction “may have prepared the Magi for the early occurrence of some great event. And this confident expectation may have led to their journey to Palestine, on the subsequent appearance of an evanescent star . . .”

Federer, Charles A. Rambling through December skies. Sky and telescope, v. 36, Dec. 1968: 390, 396. QB1.S536, v. 36

Discusses a variety of conjunctions that have been suggested as explanations for the star of Bethlehem.

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Jupiter und Saturn in den Jahren -125 and -6 nach babylonischen Quellen. *In* Akademie der Wissenschaft-

ten, *Vienna. Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Klasse. Sitzungsberichte*, 173. Bd., Abt. 2, 9./10. Heft, 1964: 343–376.

AS142.V311, v. 173, Abt. 2

Bibliography: p. 376.

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Der Messiasstern unter neuen astronomischen und archäologischen Gesichtspunkten. *Religion, Wissenschaft, Kultur*, 15. Jahrg., 1964: 3–19.

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Die Rolle des Mars bei der grossen Konjunktion 7 vor Chr. *Der Sternbote*, 9. Jahrg., 1966: 30–33.

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Der Stern der Magier. In *Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna. Philosophisch-historische Klasse. Anzeiger*, 111. Jahrg., Nr. 19, 1974: 319–345. plate. AS142.V317, v. 111

Bibliographic footnotes.

Contents: 1. Der Stern der Magier im Lichte der spätbabylonischen Astronomie.—2. Die Namen der Magier: Bithisarea, Melichior, Gathaspar.—Anhang. A. Saturn als Planet des Volkes Israel. B. Eine gemeinsame Grossperiode für Saturn, Jupiter und Mars? C. Einige besondere Phasen von Jupiter und Saturn.

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Der Stern der Weisen. In *his Kunde vom Weltall; das Geheimnis der Sterne*. Wien, Verlag Herold [1952] p. 32–37. QB44.F394

Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Der Stern der Weisen: Geschichte oder Legende? 2. erw. und erg. Aufl. Wien, Verlag Herold [1977] 171 p. plates. DLC

Bibliography: p. [124]–130. Bibliographic references included in "Anmerkungen" (p. 133–135, 170–171).

A professor of theoretical astronomy at the University of Vienna, the author has studied the problem of the star for many years. He argues that while the triple conjunction of 7 B.C. motivated the Wise Men to undertake their journey, Jupiter alone was the star of Bethlehem. The phenomenon that has baffled so many explicators, "... and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was" (Mt. 2:9), is explained as the zodiacal light, which would have appeared to extend from Jupiter to the horizon in the correct direction as the Wise Men journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem in mid-November of the year 7 B.C.



Ferrari d'Ochieppo, Konradin. Der Stern von Bethlehem. Der Sternbote, 1. Jahrg., Nr. 9, 1958: 2–6.

Filas, Francis L. The star of the Magi. Irish ecclesiastical record, v. 85, June 1956: 432–433. BX801.I7, v. 85

Letter to the editor objecting to the view that only those outside the Catholic Church could support a natural explanation of the star. The writer goes on to give arguments in favor of the planetary conjunction theory.

Finegan, Jack. The star. *In his* Handbook of biblical chronology: principles of time reckoning in the ancient world and problems of chronology in the Bible. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1964. p. 238–248. BS637.2.F5

Includes bibliographic references.

Fitzpatrick, Jesse A. Venus as the Christmas star. Sky and telescope, v. 1, Dec. 1941: 11, 25. map. QB1.S536, v. 1

Flammarion, Camille. L'étoile de Bethléem. L'Astronomie, 9. année, avril 1890: 121–128. illus. DN-Ob

Considers at some length the possibility that the star of Bethlehem might have been an early flare-up of Tycho's star (the supernova of 1572), a return of which was still awaited in 1890. The author rejects this explanation as well as three others (miracle, planetary conjunction, and comet) and believes it was most likely Venus.

A German translation, "Der Stern von Bethlehem," was published in *Deutsche Revue*, 19. Jahrg., Sept. 1894, p. 309–317 (Micro 39081).

Fotheringham, John K. The star of Bethlehem. Journal of theological studies, v. 10, Oct. 1908: 116–119. BR1.J8, v. 10

Bibliographic footnotes.

From his reading of *The Reports of the Magicians and Astrologers of Nineveh and Babylon in the British Museum* (London, Luzac, 1900), edited by Reginald Campbell Thompson, the author suggests that Mars may have been the star.

Franks, James C. Of the nature of the phaenomenon here called a star. *In his* A dissertation on the Magi who came to adore the new-born

Jesus, and the star which directed their way. Cambridge, Printed by J. Smith, Printer to the University, 1814. p. [42]–51. BT315.F7

Concludes “that it was some remarkable appearance of the *meteor* kind.”

Frege, Christian A. Der Wunderstern bei der Geburt des Erlösers, erleuchtend den prophetischen Zusammenhang himmlischer Erscheinungen mit irdischen. Zeitz, Webel, 1812.

Fresa, Alfonso. La stella dei Magi e la cometa Finsler (1924 c). Bologna, Tip. Compositori [1955] [118]–124 p. illus. DN-Ob

English summary.

References (13): p. 124.

Reprinted from *Coelum*, genn./febr. 1955.

Argues that the comet that appeared in 5 B.C. may have been Comet Finsler. “. . . we find that the change of place in the sky of the comet is not in contradiction to that of the star of the Magi as reported in the Gospel of St. Matthew.” See also his letter to the editor published in *Sky and Telescope*, v. 16, Apr. 1957, p. 259 (QB1.S536, v. 16).

Frøvig, Daniel A. Stjernen ved Betlehem i den teologiske forskning. Tidsskrift for teologi og kirke, 2. årg., 1931: 127–135.

Gaechter, Paul. Die Magierperikope (Mt 2, 1–12). Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie, 90. Bd., 3. Heft, 1968: 257–295.

BX803.Z5, v. 90

Bibliographic footnotes.

Argues that correct interpretation must be based on the Old Testament and the culture of ancient Israel rather than on that of pagan antiquity. The author concludes that Jupiter was the star seen by the Magi.

Gerhardt, Oswald. Grundzüge der Chronologie Jesu Christi. A. Das Geburtsjahr. Forschungen und Fortschritte, 10. Jahrg., 20. März 1934: 112–113. illus. Q3.F6, v. 10

Chiefly about the star of Bethlehem and its importance in dating the year of Christ's birth.

Gerhardt, Oswald. Der Stern des Messias; das Geburts- und das Todesjahr Jesu Christi nach astronomischer Berechnung. Leipzig, A. Dei-

chertsche Verlagsbuchh. Dr. W. Scholl, 1922. 144 p. illus.

BT303.G26

“Literaturnachweis”: p. [141]–144.

Presents the case for Saturn as the star of Bethlehem.

See also “Über unsere Zeitrechnung,” by Oswald Gerhardt, Jr., in *Unsere Welt*, 24. Jahrg., Nov. 1932, p. 335–339, followed by Bernhard Bavink’s “Bemerkungen zum vorstehenden Aufsatz,” p. 339–341, and additional comments from “G. G.,” Dr. Bavink, and Gerhardt Sr. in the Dez. 1932 issue, p. 367–371 (AP30.U58, v. 24).

Gossner, Simone D. The star of Bethlehem. *Nature magazine*, v. 50, Dec. 1957: 544–545.

QH1.N52, v. 50

Grundmann, Walter. Exk. 2. Der Stern von Bethlehem. In *his Das Evangelium nach Matthäus*. Berlin, Evangelische Verlagsanstalt [1968] (Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament, 1) p. 80–81.

BS2344.T5, v. 1

Bibliographic footnotes.

Guthnick, Paul. Nochmals der Stern der Weisen. *Die Reformation*, 9. Jahrg., 23. Jan. 1910: 53–54.

MH-AH

Hänsler, Heinrich. Der Stern der Weisen. *Theologie und Glaube*, 17. Jahrg., 6. Heft, 1925: 745–783. illus.

DCU

Bibliographic footnotes.

Includes a discussion of the significance to the Hebrews of a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces.

Hagar, Stansbury. What was the star of Bethlehem? *Popular astronomy*, v. 26, Mar.-June/July 1918: 150–159, 229–237, 323–332, 392–396. illus.

QB1.P8, v. 26

Bibliographic footnotes.

A letter from S. C. Hunter commenting on this article appears under the title “The Star of Bethlehem” in the June/July issue, p. 424.

Hagen, John G. La “stella Magorum.” In *Società astronomica italiana. Rivista di astronomia e scienze affini*, anno 5, 1911: 74–77.

According to the note in *Astronomischer Jahresbericht*, v. 13, 1911, Father Hagen shows that the star cannot be explained as a planetary conjunction or as an early appearance of Tycho’s star.



Hagen, John G. Stella Magorum. In Hagen, Martin, *ed.* *Lexicon Biblicum*. v. 3. Parisiis, Sumptibus P. Lethielleux, 1911. (Cursus Scripturae Sacrae, pars prior, 6) columns 1070–1075. DCU

Hagen, John G. Was haben Kepler und Tycho Brahe vom Stern der Weisen gehalten? Stimmen aus Maria-Laach, 48. Bd., Feb. 1895: 155–162. AP30.S7, v. 48

Bibliographic footnotes.

Harmon, John G. [The star of Bethlehem] *Astronomy*, v. 1, Dec. 1973: 33–35. QB1.A7998, v. 1

Hartmann, Gerhard. Das astronomische Ereignis 1940/41 und der Stern der Weisen. Stimmen der Zeit, 138. Bd., Apr. 1941: 234–238. AP30.S7, v. 138

Discusses the conjunction theory in the light of a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn that took place during the period August 1940–February 1941.

Heane, William. The Southern Cross. Notes and queries, 5th ser., v. 6, July 1, 1876: 11–12. AG305.N7, s. 5, v. 6

Discusses the legend that the stars of the Southern Cross led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. He believes that the star of the Magi was a new star or nova.

Hengel, Martin, *and* Helmut Merkel. Die Magier aus dem Osten und die Flucht nach Ägypten (Mt 2) im Rahmen der Antiken Religionsgeschichte und der Theologie des Matthäus. In *Orientierung an Jesus; zur Theologie der Synoptiker*. Für Josef Schmid. Hrsg. von Paul Hoffmann in Zusammenarbeit mit Norbert Brox und Wilhelm Pesch. Freiburg, Herder [1973] p. 139–169. BS2555.2.O75

Bibliographic footnotes. Bibliography: p. 166–169.

The star is treated on p. 144–150 and on p. 153–154.

Hennig, Richard. Ein neues Sichtbarwerden des “Sterns der Heiligen 3 Könige” i.J. 1940. *Natur und Volk*, 70. Bd., Juli 1940: 359–362. QH5.S4, v. 70

Hennig, Richard. Der Stern von Bethlehem und das Geburtsjahr Jesu. In *his* *Das Geburts- und Todesjahr Christi. Eine wissenschaftliche Prüfung der überlieferten Unterlagen, insbesondere der Berichte*

über den Stern von Bethlehem und die Sonnenfinsternis am Todestage Jesu. Essen (Ruhr), Verlag H. Fürstenau, 1936. p. 5–36.

BT303.H5

Bibliographic references included in "Anmerkungen" (p. 57-60).

Heras, Henry. The story of the Magi: the first Indians at the feet of Our Lady. Bombay, Society of St. Paul, 1954. 72 p. illus. (part col.) (Studies in Indian history of the Indian Historical Research Institute, St. Xavier's College, Bombay, no. 21)

BT315.2.H39

Bibliographic footnotes.

The star is discussed in several chapters and touched on in a number of others.

Herrmann, Joachim. Der Weihnachtsstern und die chronologische Festlegung der Geburt Christi. VdS Nachrichtenblatt, 8. Jahrg., Jan. 1959: 1–4.

Heyn, Johann. Johann Heyns Sendschreiben an des Hrn. Magister Semlers, Predigers an dem Zucht- und Arbeitshause zu Halle, Hochwohllehrwürden, worinnen einige unmassgebliche Vorschläge gethan werden, wie dessen Vollständige Beschreibung des Sterns der Weisen noch etwas vollständiger gemacht werden konte. Berlin, Bey A. Haude, 1743. 32 p.

Held by the British Library under shelfmark 531. e. 30. (2.).

Presents counterarguments against Semler's objections to Heyn's assertion that the star of Bethlehem was a comet. See also Heyn's *Versuch einer Betrachtung über die Cometen, die Sündflut und das Vorspiel des jüngsten Gerichts, nach astronomischen Gründen und der heiligen Schrift angestellet* (Berlin, Bey A. Haude, 1742), p. 84–93 (British Library shelfmark 531. e. 30. (1.)).

Heyn, Johann. Johann Heyns Sendschreiben an einen Freund auf dem Lande, worinnen gezeigt wird, dass der Stern, welcher den Weisen aus Morgenland erschien, ein Komet gewesen ist. Frankfurt, 1742. 20 p.

NN

Holetschek, Johann. Über zwei Sternfragen aus alter Zeit: die Farbe des Sirius und das Gestirn der Magier. In Vienna. Universität. *Sternwarte*. Astronomischer Kalender. 37. Jahrg.; 1918. Wien, C. Gerold's Sohn, 1917. p. 125–138.



*The star and the Wise Men presenting their gifts are seen in this sixth-century mosaic from the basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna. The upper half of the mosaic has been restored. From Giuseppe Bovini's *Ravenna Mosaics* (Greenwich, Conn., New York Graphic Society [1956]). Copyright 1956 in Italy by Amilcare Pizzi—Milan—Italy. Reproduced by permission of Amilcare Pizzi Spa.*



The Holy light. Time, v. 108, Dec. 27, 1976: 29. illus.

AP2.T37, v. 108

Holzmeister, Urban. La stella dei Magi. La Civiltà cattolica, anno 93, 3 genn. 1942: 9–22. illus.

AP37.C5, v. 93

Bibliographic footnotes.

Hontheim, Joseph. Das Datum der Geburt Christi. Der Katholik, 87. Jahrg., 1.-2. Heft, 1907: 15–44, 113–136.

Hontheim, Joseph. Die Konjunktion des Jupiter und Saturn im Jahre 7 v. Chr. Der Katholik, 88. Jahrg., 2. Heft, 1908: 187–195.

Hughes, David W. The star of Bethlehem. Nature, v. 264, Dec. 9, 1976: 513–517. illus., map.

Q1.N2, v. 264

References (19): p. 517.

The cover of the issue reproduces in color a detail from a sixth-century mosaic in the basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo at Ravenna, showing one of the Wise Men and the star. A chronological table in the text presents “the major biblical and astronomical events occurring around the time of the birth of Christ.”

Letters commenting on this article were published in v. 268, Aug. 11, 1977: from Ormond Edwards (with two references), Stuart Campbell, and Cicely M. Botley (three references), on p. 565; Norman R. Flores, p. 565–566; and T. J. Palmer and E. V. Hulse (seven references), p. 566. Hughes' reply, with two illustrations and fourteen references, follows on p. 566–567.

Hujer, Karel. Christmas and the stars. Popular astronomy, v. 53, Dec. 1945: 486–489.

QB1.P8, v. 53

Sees the star of Bethlehem as related to ancient celebrations of the winter solstice.

Ideler, Ludwig. [Stern der Weisen zur Bestimmung des Geburtsjahrs Christi benutzt] In his Handbuch der mathematischen und technischen Chronologie. 2. Bd. Berlin, Bei A. Rücker, 1826. p. 399–410.

CE71.I4, v. 2

Bibliographic footnotes.

See also his *Lehrbuch der Chronologie* (Berlin, Bei A. Rücker, 1831. CE11.I4), p. 424–431, which includes on p. 429 Encke's figures for the positions of Jupiter and Saturn at their three conjunctions in 7 B.C.

Jehan, Louis F. Étoile des Mages. *In his* Dictionnaire d'astronomie, de physique et de météorologie. Paris, Chez l'éditeur, 1850. (Encyclopédie théologique, t. 42) columns 573–576. BL21.M5, v. 42

Argues that the star was a luminous meteor.

Joyce, Edward J. Star of Bethlehem. *In* New Catholic encyclopedia. v. 13. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. [1967] p. 644.

BX841.N44 1967, v. 13

Includes bibliographic references.

Kaempffert, Waldemar. New light on the Bethlehem star. *World review*, v. 7, Dec. 24, 1928: 216. illus. AP2.W7487, v. 7

“On the whole, the theory that the star of Bethlehem was in truth a nova seems most tenable.”

Kaempffert, Waldemar. Was the star of Bethlehem a comet? *Cosmopolitan*, v. 48, Jan. 1910: 168–172. illus. AP2.C8, v. 48

Despite the title, the author supports the idea of a nova, which he says occurred when “Two giant suns, chilled to black cinders, but still imprisoning within their frozen shells a fierce heat and compounds of terrific explosive energy, crashed together in a celestial head-on collision.”

Kehrer, Hugo. Der Stern von Bethlehem. *In his* Die “Heiligen drei Könige” in der Legende und in der deutschen bildenden Kunst bis Albrecht Dürer. Strassburg, J. H. Ed. Heitz (Heitz & Mündel), 1904. (Studien zur deutschen Kunstgeschichte, 53. Heft) p. 16–22. N8063.K38 1904

Bibliographic footnotes.

Keller, Werner. The star of Bethlehem. *In his* The Bible as history; archaeology confirms the Book of Books. Translated from the German by William Neil. [Rev. 1963] London, Hodder and Stoughton [1974] p. 331–339. illus. BS635.2.K3713 1974

Favors the planetary conjunction theory. Points out that the asterisk often printed preceding a year to indicate a birth date is a symbol of the star of Bethlehem, just as the dagger similarly used to identify a death date represents the cross.

Kellner, Karl A. Heinrich. Der Stern der Weisen. *In his* Jesus von Nazareth and seine Apostel im Rahmen der Zeitgeschichte. Regensburg, New York, F. Pustet, 1908. p. 250–252. DDO; MH; NjPT

Bibliographic footnotes.

Kępiński, Felicjan. Gwiazda Betlejemska. *Urania*, r. 34, grudz. 1963: 322–323. QB1.U7, v. 34

Kepler, Johann. De vero anno qvo aeternvs Dei Filius hvmanam natvram in vtero benedictae Virginis Mariae assumpsit. Francofvrti, Typis ac sumptibus I. Bringeri, M. DC. XIV. 179 p.

BT303.K38 Rare Bk. Coll.

Reprinted in his *Gesammelte Werke*, Bd. 5, *Chronologische Schriften* (München, C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, MCMLIII. QB3.K3 1937, v. 5), p. [7]–126. For discussion of the star, see chapter 12 (p. 91–97).

Kepler's other works relating to the star seen by the Wise Men include the second part of *De Stella Nova in Pede Serpentarii* (Francofvrti, M. D. CVI.) and *De Iesv Christi Servatoris Nostri Vero Anno Natalitio* (Francofvrti, in Officina Typographica W. Richter, M. DC. VI.), both reprinted in the *Gesammelte Werke*, Bd. 1 (1938), p. [313]–356 and p. [357]–390.

King, Henry C. The Christmas star. [Toronto] Royal Ontario Museum, 1970. 8 p. illus. QB805.K55

Knörzer, Wolfgang. Exkurs: Stern von Bethlehem, Magier und Herodes. *In his* Wir haben seinen Stern gesehen: die Kindheitsevangelien nach Lukas und Matthäus. [2., neu überarb. Aufl.] Stuttgart, Verlag Katholisches Bibelwerk [1968] (Werkhefte zur Bibelarbeit, 11) p. 212–217. BT315.2.K57 1968

Kritzinger, Hans H. Das Geburtsjahr Christi und der Stern der Weisen. *Glauben und Wissen*, 8. Jahrg., 1910: 95–97.

Kritzinger, Hans H. *Stella Magorum. Sirius*, 48. Bd., März 1915: 57–60. DN-Ob

Kritzinger, Hans H. Der Stern der Weisen. *Astronomisch-kritische Studie*. Mit einem Geleitwort von D. Wilhelm Faber. Buchschmuck



von Martin Faber. Gütersloh, C. Bertelsmann, 1911. 120 p. illus.  
ICJ; MH; NN; PPWe

Bibliography: p. 120.

Kroll, Gerhard. Der Stern der Weisen. *In his Auf den Spuren Jesu.*  
5., erw. Aufl. Leipzig, St. Benno-Verlag [1975] p. 83, 85–90. illus.  
DS107.4.K7 1975

Notes for this section (no. 47–56) appear on p. 546–547.

Kugler, Franz X. Der Stern von Bethlehem. Stimmen aus Maria-Laach,  
83. Bd., Nov. 1912: 481–492. AP30.S7, v. 83

Bibliographic footnotes.

Concludes that the star was a supernatural manifestation.

Láska, Václav J. Der Stern von Betlehem und das Geburtsjahr Christi.  
Natur und Offenbarung, 39. Bd., 5. Heft, 1893: 307–310.

Lasswitz, Kurd. Der Stern von Bethlehem. Die Woche, 7. Jahrg., 23.  
Dez. 1905: 2238–2241. Micro 27817

Reprinted in his *Empfundenes und Erkanntes; aus dem Nachlasse*  
(Leipzig, B. Elischer Nachf. [1920]), p. [259]–270.

Lauth, Franz J. On the date of the nativity. *In Society of Biblical*  
*Archaeology, London.* Transactions, v. 4, Dec. 1875: 226–246.  
BS620.A1S48, v. 4

A letter addressed to Mr. Bosanquet; read February 2, 1875.  
The star of the Magi is among the points considered.

Legrand, L. Vidimus stellam ejus in oriente. Clergy monthly, v. 23,  
Dec. 1959: 377–384. DCU

“The ‘star’ has nothing to do with astronomical phenomena.”

Lesêtre, Henri. Etoile des Mages. *In Vigouroux, Fulcran G. Diction-*  
*naire de la Bible.* t. 2. Paris, Letouzey et Ané, 1910. columns 2038–  
2039. BS440.V7, v. 2

Includes bibliographic references.

Lewis, Isabel E. M. “Lo, the star which they saw in the east . . .” What  
was the star of Bethlehem that led the wise men? *Nature magazine,*  
v. 31, Dec. 1938: 617–618. QH1.N52, v. 31

Lichtenstein, Friedrich W. Jakob. Anm. 8 [Matth. 2, 1–18] *In his Lebensgeschichte des Herrn Jesu Christi in chronologischer Uebersicht. Mit erläuternden Anmerkungen.* Erlangen, A. Deichert, 1856. p. 90–98. BT303.L7

Most of the note is concerned with the star. The author accepts the planetary conjunction explanation and suggests that the tradition of its connection with the birth of a messiah as indicated by Abravanel may be older than can be demonstrated by surviving records.

Liebhart, Leopold. Die Seltenheit der Himmelserscheinung des Jahres 7 vor Christus. *Theologisch-praktische Quartalschrift*, 102. Jahrg., 1. Heft, 1954: 12–20. DCU

Bibliographic footnotes.

Discusses the rarity of a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces.

Little, Edward S. Interpretations of the star of Bethlehem. San Francisco, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 1968. 8 p. (Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Leaflet, no. 474) DN-Ob

Examines the star from astronomical and theological viewpoints.

Lockwood, Marian. The Christmas star. *Sky and telescope*, v. 4, Dec. 1944: 12–13. illus. QB1.S536, v. 4

Lockwood, Marian. That Christmas star. *Sky and telescope*, v. 2, Dec. 1942: 3–4. illus. QB1.S536, v. 2

“... no one can say with any certainty what it really was.”

Lockwood, Marian. The Wise Men's star. *Sky and telescope*, v. 3, Dec. 1943: 7–8. illus. QB1.S536, v. 3

Lukas, Rainer. Der Weihnachtsstern und seine Deutung. *Orion*, Bd. 13, Dez. 1968: 141–142. DN-Ob

References (4): p. 142.

Lundmark, Knut. The messianic ideas and their astronomical background. *In International Congress on the History of Sciences, 7th, Jerusalem, 1953. Actes.* Paris, Académie internationale d'histoire des sciences [1956?] (Collection des travaux de l'Académie internationale d'histoire des sciences, no. 8) p. 436–439. Q101.I65, 7th

Luther, Wilhelm. The constellation of Bethlehem. *Observatory*, v. 32, Feb. 1909: 104. QB1.O2, v. 32

A letter suggesting that the star which stood over Bethlehem at the time of Herod might have been Castor or Pollux, both of which culminated near the zenith at Bethlehem about the beginning of the Christian era. A letter from W. H. S. Monck, setting forth objections to this idea, was published as "The Star of Bethlehem" in the Mar. 1910 issue, p. 137-138.

Luther published a longer letter elaborating his suggestion, under the title "Der Stern von Bethlehem," in the *Geographischer Anzeiger*, 12. Jahrg., Heft 6, 1911, p. 136 (G1.G39, v. 12), adding that possibly a bright nova might have appeared between Castor and Pollux.

Lynn, William T. The star of the Magi. Notes and queries, 6th ser., v. 7, Jan. 6, 1883: 4-5. AG305.N7, s. 6, v. 7

Believes that the guiding star "was a strictly miraculous appearance resembling a star . . . This does not affect the question of any significance that may have been attributed by the magi to the near approach of Jupiter and Saturn in B.C. 7 (year of Rome 748) and of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars in B.C. 6 (year of Rome 749)."

McClintock, John, and James Strong. Star in the East. In *their* Cyclopaedia of biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical literature. v. 9. New York, Harper, 1880. p. 991-993. BR95.M3, v. 9

Includes bibliographic references.

Mackinlay, George. The date of the nativity determined by the star in the East. In *his* The Magi: how they recognised Christ's star. London, Hodder and Stoughton, MCMVII. p. 151-161. BT315.M3

Concludes that the star in the East was the morning star (Venus).

Maier, Paul L. The astronomy of the first Christmas: an incredible star. In *his* First Christmas; the true and unfamiliar story in words and pictures. New York, Harper & Row [1971] p. 69-81. illus.

BT315.2.M3 1971

Bibliographic references included in "Notes" (p. 123).

Marsh-Edwards, J. C. The star of Bethlehem: astronomical enquiries. Tablet, v. 206, Dec. 24, 1955: 629. AP4.T17, v. 206



Marshall, Roy K. Star of Bethlehem? Sky and telescope, v. 3, Dec. 1943: 15. QB1.S536, v. 3

Includes discussion of Kepler's views.

Marshall, Roy K. The star of Bethlehem. Chapel Hill, Morehead Planetarium, 1949. 23 p. NcU

Marshall, Roy K. "Stars" of Bethlehem in the planetarium. [n.p., 196-] 11 leaves.

Reprinted from *Planetarium International*, 1967, distributed by Carl Zeiss.

On recreating the sky of 7 and 6 B.C. with a planetarium instrument.

Martin, Ernest L. The celestial pageantry dating Christ's birth. Christianity today, v. 21, Dec. 3, 1976: 16-18, 21-22. BR1.C6418, v. 21

Suggests that the year of Christ's birth may have been as late as 3 or 2 B.C. and that Jupiter may have been the star of Bethlehem.

Maunder, Edward Walter. The star of Bethlehem. In *his* The astronomy of the Bible. 2d ed. London, T. Sealey Clark [1908] p. 393-400. QB19.M3

A similar essay, entitled "Star of the Magi," appears in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, v. 5 (Chicago, Howard-Severance Co., 1915. BS440.I6, v. 5), p. 2848-2849.

Mertens, Heinrich A. Der Stern der Weisen. In *his* Handbuch der Bibeldkunde. Düsseldorf, Patmos-Verlag [1966] p. 703-706. illus. BS417.M4

Meyer, Earl R. The Christmas star. Physics teacher, v. 15, Dec. 1977: 533-537, 549. illus., port. QC30.P48, v. 15  
Bibliography: p. 549.

Michl, Johann. Stern der Weisen. In *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*. 9. Bd. Freiburg, Verlag Herold [1964] column 1058. BR95.L48, v. 9

Includes bibliographic references.

Montefiore, H. W. Josephus and the New Testament. *Novum Testamentum*, v. 4, Dec. 1960: 139–160. BS410.N6, v. 4

“The Star at Jesus’ Birth”: p. 140–148.

Bibliographic footnotes.

Morehouse, A. J. The Christmas star as a supernova in Aquila. *In* Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. *Journal*, v. 72, Apr. 1978: 65–68. DN-Ob

References (10): p. 68.

Tries to show that the Christmas star was three unrelated events—a series of planetary conjunctions and two novae.

Morrison, J. The star of Bethlehem. *Popular astronomy*, v. 11, Feb.-Mar. 1903: 88–91, 122–123. QB1.P8, v. 11

Morrison Planetarium, *San Francisco*. The Christmas star. San Francisco [California Academy of Sciences, 1954] 14 p. illus. (*Its Booklet* no. 6)

Morton, Jean S. The star of Bethlehem. *In her Science in the Bible*. Chicago, Moody Press [1978] p. 17–18. BS650.M67

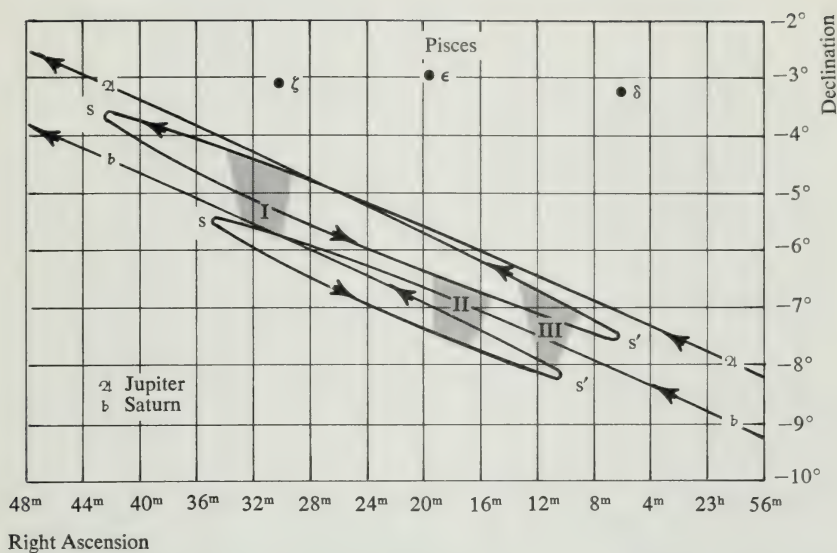
“... natural phenomena are not a plausible explanation of this miraculous event.”

Münter, Friedrich C. C. H., *Bp.* Der Stern der Weisen. Untersuchungen über das Geburtsjahr Christi. Kopenhagen, J. H. Schubothe, 1827. 119 p. TxDaM; PPAmP

Münter, Friedrich C. C. H., *Bp.* [Sur l’année incertaine de la naissance de Jésus-Christ] Correspondance astronomique, géographique, hydrographique et statistique du baron de Zach, v. 4, juin 1820: 567–571. QB1.C9, v. 4

French translation of a Latin lecture on the triple conjunction idea and the relevant writings of Abravanel (for a German translation, see Pfaff). Extensive notes by the Freiherr von Zach follow on p. 572–597.

A summary in Danish of Münter’s paper can be found in *Over-sigt over det Kongelige danske videnskabernes selskabs forhandlinger fra Mai 1820 til Mai 1821* ([Kjöbenhavn, H. F. Popp, 1821] AS281.D21, 1821), p. 23–25.



*The triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, 7 B.C. In the days when planets were generally believed to influence human affairs, conjunctions—alignments of two or more planets on the same celestial meridian—were carefully studied. Here the paths of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation Pisces are shown for the period April 19, 7 B.C., to February 3, 6 B.C. The shaded areas indicate the three periods of conjunction: I, May 29-June 8; II, September 26-October 6; and III, December 5-15. Jupiter was stationary (s) just before July 24 and retrograded until November 12/13, when it became stationary (s') again before resuming eastward motion. The corresponding dates for Saturn are: s = July 24/25, and s' = November 13/14. Three stars in Pisces—Zeta, Epsilon, and Delta—are marked. Comparing the location of these stars on a modern chart will show the effects of precession over nearly two thousand years. Adapted from Gerhard Kroll's *Auf den Spuren Jesu*, 5., erw. Aufl. (Leipzig, St.-Benno Verlag [1973]), p. 89.*



Mullaney, James. The star of Bethlehem. *Science digest*, v. 80, Dec. 1976: 61-65. illus. Q1.S383, v. 80

Murdin, Paul, and Lesley Murdin. The star of Bethlehem. *In their* The new astronomy. New York, T. Y. Crowell Co. [1978] p. 21-24. QB44.2.M87

The star may have been a nova but was probably not a supernova.

Nausea, Friedrich, *Bp.* An stella, quae magos ad Christum nuperrime natum duxit, cometes, de quo Imp. Augustus, fuerit. *In his* Libri mirabilium septem. Coloniae, Apud P. Quentell, Anno M. D. XXXII. fol. LIX<sup>r</sup>-LX<sup>r</sup>. CtY; IU; MH; NIC; NN; ODaStL; PU

Nellessen, Ernst. Der Stern von Bethlehem. *In his* Das Kind und seine Mutter. Struktur und Verkündigung des 2. Kapitels im Matthäusevangelium. Stuttgart, Verlag Katholisches Bibelwerk [1969] (Stuttgarter Bibelstudien, 39) p. 117-119. BS2775.2.N4 1969

Bibliographic footnotes.

Believes the star to have been a miracle.

Nicholson, Thomas D. The Christmas star. *Sky reporter*, v. 10, Dec. 1957: 1-2, 7. illus. NNM

Notz, William. The star of Bethlehem and the Magi. *Bibliotheca sacra*, v. 73, Oct. 1916: 537-545. BR1.B8, v. 73

Bibliography: p. 545.

Oefe, Felix, *Freiherr* von. Die Angaben der Berliner Planetentafel P 8279 verglichen mit der Geburtsgeschichte Christi im Berichte des Matthäus. Berlin, W. Peiser, 1903. 45 p. (Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft, 8. Jahrg., 2) DS41.V8, v. 8

Oriti, Ronald A. The star of Bethlehem. *Griffith observer*, v. 39, Dec. 1975: 9-11, 14. QB1.G7, v. 39

Patrizi, Francesco S. De stella a Magis visa. *In his* De evangeliis. Liber tertius qui est Exegētikos. Friburgi Brisgoviae, Libraria Herderiana, MDCCCLIII. p. 331-339. DCU

Paulus, Heinrich E. G. Matthäus 2, 1–12. *In his* Exegetisches Handbuch über die drei ersten Evangelien. Wohlfeile Ausg. 1. Th. Heidelberg, Acad. Verlagsbuchhandlung von C. F. Winter, 1842. p. 200–223. CBPac; MB; MH; MnCS; NN; OCH; PPeSchw; TxDaM-P

The star is treated on p. 204–211 and p. 221–222.

Payne, William W. The star of Bethlehem. *Sidereal messenger*, v. 4, May 1885: 110–114. QB1.A8, v. 4

Discusses various proposed explanations, including the suggestion (attributed to Cardano) that it was an earlier appearance of Tycho's star (the supernova of 1572). A similar article appears in v. 6, Sept./Oct. 1887, p. 265–269, and a letter from James T. Ellis commenting on it, in the Dec. 1887 issue, p. 360–361. See also the note commenting on the 1885 article, in the "Editorial Gossip" column of *Knowledge*, v. 7, June 12, 1885, p. 505 (Q1.K7, v. 7).

Peattie, Donald C. The star of stars. *Good housekeeping*, v. 137, Dec. 1953: 30–31. TX1.G7, v. 137

Pfaff, Johann W. A. Die Planeten-Conjunctionen und der Stern der drey Weisen. *In his* Das Licht und die Weltgegenden, samt einer Abhandlung über Planeten-Conjunctionen und den Stern der drey Weisen. Bamberg, In der Kunz'schen Buchhandlung, 1811. p. [87]–182. QC355.P45

Includes (on p. 166–171) a German translation of Bishop Münter's lecture on the star in relation to the date of Christ's birth.

Pickering, James S. What was the star of Bethlehem? *In his* 1001 questions answered about astronomy. Rev. ed. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1966. p. 99–102. QB44.P63 1966

Pitluga, Linton, and Phyllis Pitluga. The Christmas star. Chicago, Ill., Cygnus Pub. Co. [1976] 24 p. illus.

Plakidēs, Stauros M. Astēr tōn magōn. *In* Thrēskeutikē kai ēthikē enkyklopaideia. t. 3. Athēnai [Ath. Martinos] 1963. columns 414–415. illus. BX230.T5, v. 3

Includes bibliographic references.

Pohl, Eckhard. Der Stern von Bethlehem. *Sterne und Weltraum*, 7. Jahrg., Dez. 1968: 301–303. illus. QB1.S854, v. 7

On the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.

Porter, Jermain G. The star of Bethlehem. *Astronomy and astrophysics*, v. 12, Jan. 1893: 6–7. QB1.A8, v. 12

Concludes that, since no heavenly body meets the requirements, “. . . the star of Bethlehem, like the Herald Angel, was a messenger directly from the realm of the supernatural.”

Prat, Ferdinand. The Magi from the East. *In his* Jesus Christ; His life, His teaching, and His work. v. 1. Translated from the sixteenth French ed. [by] John J. Heenan. Milwaukee, Bruce Pub. Co. [1950] (Science and culture series) p. 94–103. BT301.P6852

Bibliographic footnotes.

The star is discussed on p. 97–98 and p. 101.

Pritchard, Charles. On the conjunctions of the planets Jupiter and Saturn, in the years B.C. 7, B.C. 66, and A.D. 54. *In* Royal Astronomical Society. *Memoirs*. v. 25. London, 1857. p. 119–123.

QB1.R5, v. 25

A paper read June 13, 1856. A summary appears in the Society's *Monthly Notices*, v. 16, July 1856, p. 215–216 (QB1.R7, v. 16).

In checking the accuracy of Ideler's assertions, the author found that there was indeed a triple conjunction in 7 B.C. but that the dates and proximity of the planets as given by Ideler are not correct.

Pritchard, Charles. Star of the Wise Men. *In* Smith, Sir William. Dr. William Smith's Dictionary of the Bible. Rev. and edited by H. B. Hackett. v. 4. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1888. p. 3107–3109.

BS440.S62 1888, v. 4

Includes bibliographic references.

Proctor, Richard A. The star in the East. *Knowledge*, v. 2, Dec. 29, 1882: 491–492. Q1.K7, v. 2

Argues against the planetary conjunction hypothesis.

Reprinted in his *The Universe of Suns and Other Science Gleanings* (London, Chatto & Windus, 1884), p. 186–191.

Ramm, Bernard. The star of Bethlehem. *In his* The Christian view of science and scripture. Grand Rapids, Mich., W. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co. [1954] p. 163–167. BS650.R28

Bibliographic footnotes.

Believes that the star “was a special manifestation for the birth of Jesus and that it was seen only by the wise men.”



Redpath, Henry A. Star of the Magi. In Hastings, James, and John A. Selbie, eds. Dictionary of the Bible. New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1927. p. 876-877. BS440.H5 1927

Riccioli, Giovanni B. De admirabili stella, quae tribus SS. Magis Christi Domini ortum & incunabula praemonstravit. Quid astronomi, quid SS. patres ac doctores ecclesiae de illa senserint. Referuntur ac refelluntur errores nonnullorum circa stellam Magorum, sed praecipuè genethliacorum: vbi & de themate Natalitio Christi parùm piè per aliquot erecto, & de coniunctione maxima planetarum, hanc stellam praecedente. In his Almagestum novvm. Pars posterior tomi primi. [Bononiae, Ex typographiae Haeredis V. Benatij, MDCLI] p. 179-193. QB41.R4, v. 1.2 Rare Bk. Coll.

Richards, Carl P. The star of Bethlehem. Mazama, v. 29, Dec. 1947: 51-53. DSI

"... science, left with no authentic information, is merely able to speculate."

Also published in *The Strolling Astronomer*, v. 2, Jan. 1948, p. 1-5, and reprinted in v. 20, Jan./Feb. 1966, p. 1-3 (QB1.S88, v. 1, 20).

Richards, Carl P. The star of Bethlehem. Sky and telescope, v. 16, Dec. 1956: 66-67. illus. QB1.S536, v. 16

Expresses a personal preference for the nova or supernova explanation, after considering the various possibilities that have been suggested. In a letter to the editor published in the Apr. 1957 issue, p. 259, Alfonso Fresa comments on this article and proposes Comet Finsler (1924 c) as yet another candidate.

Richardson, Robert S. Is that star the "star of Bethlehem?" San Francisco, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 1937. 7 p. (Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Leaflet 106) QB1.A42, no. 106

Richardson, Robert S. What was the star of Bethlehem? In his The fascinating world of astronomy. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. [1960] p. 232-237. illus. QB44.R47

Also published in *Popular Science*, v. 177, Dec. 1960, p. 128-129, 232, 234 (AP2.P8, v. 177).

Expansion of an article entitled "The Star of Bethlehem—Fact or Myth?" published in the *Griffith Observer*, v. 22, Dec. 1958, p. 162-164 (QB1.G7, v. 22).

Rodman, Robert. A linguistic note on the Christmas star. *Griffith observer*, v. 40, Dec. 1976: 8–9. QB1.G7, v. 40

On the Greek word *astēr* and objections to the planetary conjunction theory based on its use in the Gospel of Matthew.

Rolleston, Frances. The star of Bethlehem. *In her Mazzaroth; or, The constellations*. pt. 2. New ed. London, Rivingtons, 1876. p. 104–106. DN-Ob; ICU; NN; PPL

Rosenberg, Roy A. The “star of the Messiah” reconsidered. *Biblica*, v. 53, fasc. 1, 1972: 105–109. BS410.B7, v. 53

Bibliographic footnotes.

Discusses the “Jewish astrological tradition linking the appearance of the Messiah, and other great events, with the conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn.”

Roth, Laurenz M. *De stella a Magis conspecta. Commentatio exegetica in Matth. II. 9.* Mainz, Kirchheim, 1865. 26 p.

Schaumberger, Johann B. Interum textus cuneiformis de stella Magorum? *Biblica*, v. 7, Iul. 1926: 294–301. BS410.B7, v. 7

Includes, on p. 295–296, a letter to the author from Carl Schoch, entitled “Der Stern des Messias.”

Schaumberger, Johann B. Der jüngste datierbare Keilschrifttext. *In Miscellanea orientalia*, dedicata Antonio Deimel, annos LXX complenti. Roma, Pontificio istituto biblico, 1935. (*Analecta orientalia*, 12) p. 279–287. PJ25.A65, v. 12

Text of Sp II 142, containing predictions of planetary motions for the year 7/6 B.C.

Schaumberger, Johann B. Ein neues Keilschriftfragment über den angeblichen Stern der Weisen. *Biblica*, v. 24, fasc. 1/2, 1943: 162–169. BS410.B7, v. 24

Bibliographic footnotes.

Text of Sp II 795, which proves to be a continuation of Sp II 142 extending to the spring of 6 B.C.

Schaumberger, Johann B. *Stella Magorum et coniunctio Saturni cum Jove annis 7 a. Chr. et 1940/1*. *Verbum Domini*, v. 20, Dec. 1940: 333–339. DCU

Bibliographic footnotes.

Schaumberger, Johann B. *Textus cuneiformis de stella Magorum? Biblica*, v. 6, Dec. 1925: 444–449. BS410.B7, v. 6

Bibliographic footnotes.

On the text first published by Paul Schnabel as “Der jüngste datierbare Keilschrifttext” in the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und verwandte Gebiete*, 36. Bd., Okt. 1924, p. 66–70 (PJ3104.Z5, v. 36), an ephemeris predicting, among other planetary motions, the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in 7 B.C.

Scherer, Wilhelm. *Johannes Kepler und der Dreikönigsstern*. In *Johannes Kepler, der kaiserliche Mathematiker . . . Zur Erinnerung an seinen Todestag vor 300 Jahren*. [Kepler-Festschrift, 1. T.] Hrsg. von Karl Stöckl. Regensburg, Druck der Graphischen Kunstanstalt H. Schiele, 1930. (Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein Regensburg. Berichte, 19. Heft, 1928/30) p. 225–230. Q49.R2, 1930

Bibliographic footnotes.

Schiaparelli, Giovanni V. *La stella dell'Epifania*. *Rassegna nazionale*, v. 177, 1. genn. 1911: 3–10. Micro 39085 AP

Three previously unpublished letters.

Schmiedel, Paul W. *Neueste astronomische Feststellungen über den Stern der Weisen und den Todestag Jesu*. *Protestantische Monatshefte*, 8. Jahrg., 9. Heft, 1904: 313–338.

Schoch, Carl. *Der Stern des Messias*. *Sirius*, 59. Bd., Juli 1926: 140. DN-Ob

Comments on Gerhardt's statements about the rarity of a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces. Gerhardt's reply appears in the Dez. 1926 issue, p. 284.

Schreiber, Christian, *Bp. Die Weisen aus dem Morgenlande*. *Theologie und Glaube*, 1. Jahrg., 3. Heft, 1909: 184–196. DCU

Most of the article deals with the problem of the star. The author favors the solution offered by the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.



Searle, George M. The star of Bethlehem. *Catholic world*, v. 47, Apr. 1888: 59–66. AP2.C3, v. 47

Concludes that the star was a supernatural phenomenon.

Seiss, Joseph A. The star of Bethlehem. *In his* The gospel in the stars; or, Primeval astronomy. New and enl. ed. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1885. p. 424–452. BL253.S4 1885

Semler, Christian G. Vollständige Beschreibung des Sterns der Weisen. Halle, In der Rengerischen Buchhandlung, 1743. [xii], 203 p. OkU

Semler, Christian G. Zweyter Abschnitt. Astronomische Wiederlegung, dass der Stern der Weisen kein Comet gewesen. *In his* Vollständige Beschreibung von dem neuen Cometen des 1742sten Jahres. Halle, Im Rengerischen Buchladen, 1742. p. 114–174. ICU; MH; NN

Bibliographic footnotes.

Sepp, Johann N. Der Stern des Messias. *In his* Das Leben Christi. 1. Th. Regensburg, G. J. Manz, 1843. p. 18–64. CU; NN; PLatS

Includes bibliographic references.

Seyffarth, Gustav. Der Stern der Weisen. *In his* Chronologia sacra. Untersuchungen über das Geburtsjahr des Herrn und die Zeitrechnung des Alten und Neuen Testamentes. Leipzig, Verlag von J. A. Barth, 1846. p. 88–92.

MH; MdBp; NN; NjNbS; OCIW; PPLT; PPStCh

Bibliographic footnotes.

Seymour, John, and Michael W. Seymour. The historicity of the Gospels and astronomical events concerning the birth of Christ. *In* Royal Astronomical Society. Quarterly journal, v. 19, no. 2, 1978: 194–197. DN-Ob

References (11): p. 196–197.

Sinnott, Roger W. Thoughts on the star of Bethlehem. *Sky and telescope*, v. 36, Dec. 1968: 384–386. illus. QB1.S536, v. 36

Considering the very uncertain date of Christ's birth, the author investigates "the possibility that a planetary grouping of peculiar beauty may have taken place in the two decades beginning 12 B.C." Conjunctions of Jupiter and Venus in Leo in 3 and 2 B.C. are proposed.

Skeath, William C. The star. *In his* The joyful mystery; devotional meditations on the events connected with the first Christmas. Illustrated by Harold J. Minton. Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1940. p. 117-123. BT315.S55

Sloet, D. A. W. H. De ster der Wijzen. Bussum, P. Brand, 1920. 128 p. fold. chart. MH; NN; NjPT

Smith, Charles S. The star of the Magi. Church quarterly review, v. 114, July 1932: 212-227. BR1.C685, v. 114

Supports the nova theory.

Spadafora, Francesco. La stella dei Magi nella "Vita di Gesù" di un illustre scienziato. L'Osservatore romano, anno 100, 25 dic. 1960: 4. N&CPR

Reprinted under the title "Una vita di Gesù" in his *Attualità bibliche* ([Roma] Città nuova editrice [1964] BS515.2.S6), p. 349-354.

After considering six possibilities, concludes that the star was miraculous.

The Star of Bethlehem. Nature, v. 37, Dec. 22, 1887: 169-171. illus. Q1.N2, v. 37

Argues in favor of Venus. Three letters (from John T. Nicolson, Wm. Pengelly, and E. Coatham) commenting on this article appear in the Jan. 5, 1888, issue, p. 221. Another, from A. Freeman, was published in the *Observatory*, v. 11, Mar. 1888, p. 156 (QB1.O2, v. 11).

Star of Bethlehem. Time, v. 26, Dec. 16, 1935: 36. AP2.T37, v. 26

Brief note on a show at the Hayden Planetarium depicting a conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars in 8 (6?) B.C., which may have been the star of Bethlehem.

The Star of Bethlehem phenomenon. Horoscope, v. 39, Dec. 1973: 62-63. BF1651.H65, v. 39

On the conjunction theory as propounded by Dr. Karlis Kaufmanis, an astronomy professor at the University of Minnesota. Reprinted from the *Farmers Union Herald* of Dec. 26, 1972.



*Sudden appearance of the new star of 1572, observed by Tycho Brahe. From Flammarion's *Astronomie populaire* (Paris, C. Marpon et E. Flammarion, 1880), p. 769.*



The Star of the Magi. English mechanic and world of science, v. 20, Dec. 11, 1874: 322. T1.E5, v. 20

Letter to the editor signed J. E. G., suggesting that the star may have been "an appearance of Tycho Brahe's star of 1572, supposing it to be a variable with a period of about 314 years, and that it was identical with the temporary stars of the years 1264 and 945."

Stauffer, Ethelbert. The star. *In his* Jesus and his story. Translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. New York, A. A. Knopf, 1960. p. 32-35. BT301.2.S683

Supports the identification with the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.

Steinmetzer, Franz X. Ein neuer Weg zur Bestimmung des Geburtsdatums Christi? Theologische Quartalschrift, 94. Jahrg., 4. Quartalheft, 1912: 497-511. DCU

Bibliographic footnotes.

Steinmetzer, Franz X. The star of the Wise Men. Irish theological quarterly, v. 7, Jan. 1912: 51-63. DCU

Steinmetzer, Franz X. Der Stern der Weisen. *In his* Die Geschichte der Geburt und Kindheit Christi und ihr Verhältnis zur babylonischen Mythe. Eine religionsgeschichtliche Untersuchung. Münster i.W., Verlag der Aschendorffschen Buchhandlung, 1910. (Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen, II. Bd., 1.-2. Heft) p. 84-109. 4BT 607

Bibliographic footnotes.

Steinmetzer, Franz X. Der Stern von Bethlehem. 1. und 2. Aufl. Münster in Westf., Aschendorffsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1913. 40 p. (Biblische Zeitfragen, 6. Folge, Heft 3) 4BT 293

Bibliographic footnotes.

Believes that the journey of the Magi took place at the time of the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C. but that the star of Bethlehem was Jupiter alone.

Stentzel, Arthur C. A. M. Das Alter Jesu und der Stern der Weisen. Das Weltall, 7. Jahrg., 15. Jan. 1907: 113-118. QB1.W4, v. 7

Argues that the star of Bethlehem was Halley's Comet.

Stentzel, Arthur C. A. M. *Der Stern der Weisen. In his Jesus Christus und sein Stern. Eine chronologische Untersuchung.* 2. Aufl. Mit einem Nachtrag und 22 Tafeln. Hamburg, H. Christian, 1928. [xiv], 274 p. plates. ICU

Bibliographic footnotes.

Copies of the first edition (Hamburg, Verlag der Astronomischen Korrespondenz, 1913. 240 p.) are ascribed to CU and MH.

An exhaustive presentation of the case for Halley's Comet as the star of Bethlehem in 12 B.C.

Stentzel, Arthur C. A. M. *Der Stern der Weisen und das Alter Jesu.* *Astronomische Korrespondenz*, 4. Jahrg., 1910: 42–46.

Stentzel, Arthur C. A. M. *Zur Geschichte des Sternes der Weisen.* *Astronomische Korrespondenz*, 4. Jahrg., 1910: 73–75.

Stockwell, John N. Supplement to recent contributions to chronology and eclipses. *Astronomical journal*, v. 12, Nov. 26, 1892: 121–125. QB1.A3, v. 12

Computations of various planetary conjunctions that took place about the beginning of the Christian era are presented on p. 124–125. The author favors a conjunction of Venus and Jupiter that occurred on May 8 in the year 6 B.C. as the likeliest explanation of the star of Bethlehem. This part of the article was reprinted, with a short introduction, under the title "The Star of Bethlehem" in *Nature*, v. 47, Dec. 22, 1892, p. 177–178 (Q1.N2, v. 47). William T. Lynn comments on Stockwell's views in his article "The Star of Bethlehem" in *Notes and Queries*, 8th ser., v. 3, Jan. 7, 1893, p. 6–7 (AG305.N7, s. 8, v. 3).

Strauch, Aegidius. Von der Weisen aus Morgen-Lande Alten, und dem ietzigen Neuen Wunder-Sternen unterrichtete, auss (Matt. ii. 1–12) . . . am also-genanten Heiligen drey König-Tage, dess Jahrs 1681 seine Christliche Zuhörer D. E. S. [Dantzig, 1681] 31 p.

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Strauss, Otto. Ein letztes Wort über den "Stern der Weisen." *Die Reformation*, 9. Jahrg., 30. Jan. 1910: 69–71. MH-AH

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Sullivan, Kay. The star the Magi saw. Catholic digest, v. 24, Dec. 1959: 43–48. illus. BX801.C34, v. 24

“It is only one of many mysteries in the story of the mysterious Wise Men.”

Swift, Lewis. The star of Bethlehem. Astronomy and astro-physics, v. 12, Feb. 1893: 105–106. QB1.A8, v. 12

Comments on Stockwell’s findings and concludes that “though of Divine origin, the phenomenon seen of the Wise Men was wholly terrestrial and local.”

A news note on this article, published in the *English Mechanic and World of Science*, v. 57, Feb. 24, 1893, p. 9, provoked a lengthy correspondence in which various interpretations of the star were argued (see the issues of Mar. 10–Apr. 21, p. 57, 84, 106, 132, 153–154, 177, and 199).

Prof. Swift urged the same views, imperiously and at length, in two later controversies published in the same periodical: v. 66, Nov. 19–26, 1897 (p. 318–319 and 339–340), and v. 71, June 1–22 and July 27, 1900 (p. 335, 357, 376, 378–379, 403, and 516. T1.E5, v. 57, 66, 71).

Taylor, E. S. Time of year when our Saviour was born. Notes and queries, 2d ser., v. 3, Jan. 31, 1857: 96. AG305.N7, s. 2, v. 3

Quotes Alford regarding the triple conjunction of A.U.C. 747.

Thiess, Johann O. Ueber die Magier und ihren Stern. Zur Rechtfertigung des Matthäus, zur Beurtheilung seiner Ausleger, und zur Beruhigung für denkende Bibelleser. Neue, unveränderte Ausg. Leipzig, In Commission bey J. S. Heinsius, 1794. 117 p.

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Summarizes the views of many authors on the nature of the star, commenting that the number of such opinions is nearly beyond counting, and that a new star is required to lead the public out of the labyrinth in which these supposed explanations have entangled them.

Thomson, A. E. The star of Bethlehem: what was it? Bible student and teacher, v. 11, Dec. 1909: 318–320. BS410.B6, v. 11

Concludes that since “no naturalistic explanation explains, . . . the supernatural explanation is more reasonable and more easily credible.”



Trench, Richard C., *Abp. of Dublin*. The star of the Wise Men; a commentary on the second chapter of St. Matthew. Rev. from the London ed. New York, Lane & Scott, 1851. 171 p. ICRL; ICU; OO

The National Union Catalog ascribes copies of the London edition (1850) to sixteen U.S. libraries.

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Trilling, Wolfgang. Der Stern der Magier. *In his* Fragen zur Geschichtlichkeit Jesu. Düsseldorf, Patmos-Verlag [1966] (Patmos Paperbacks) p. 74–76. BT303.2.T7 1967

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Trotter, A. The star of the Magi. English mechanic and world of science, v. 20, Dec. 18, 1874: 348. T1.E5, v. 20

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The True date of the Savior's birth? American weekly, Apr. 28, 1935: 5. illus. N&CPR

"Calculations of an Italian astronomer [Argentieri] who asserts this is not the year 1935 but 1945, that the star the three Wise Men followed was Halley's Comet and that the star of Bethlehem was a meteor."

Upham, Francis W. Kepler's discovery. *In his* The Wise Men: who they were; and how they came to Jerusalem. New York, Nelson & Phillips, 1873. p. 145–165. BT315.U63 1873

Upham, Francis W. The star of Our Lord one of the stars of heaven. *In his* Star of Our Lord; or, Christ Jesus, king of all worlds, both of time or space. New York, Nelson & Phillips, 1873. p. 78–111. Micro 70508 BT

Vaart Smit, H. W. van der. The Magi. *In his* Born in Bethlehem: Christmas as it really was. Translated from the German by Thomas R. Milligan. Baltimore, Helicon [1963] p. 79–113. BT315.2.V313

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Valier, Max. Der Stern der Heiligen drei Könige. Das Weltall, 25. Jahrg., Dez. 1925: 37–41. QB1.W4, v. 25

Tries to show that the 12 B.C. appearance of Halley's Comet could have been the star of Bethlehem.

Valier, Max. Der Stern von Bethlehem. Daheim, 63. Jahrg., 25. Dez. 1926: 9–11. illus. Micro 39103

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Vezin, August. Der Magierstern. In *Bible. N. T. Gospels. German. Harmonies*. 1938. Das Evangelium Jesu Christi; Zusammenschau und Erläuterung. 2., verb. Aufl. Freiburg im Breisgau, Herder [1938] p. 242–249. BS2561.G3V4 1938

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Vezin, August. Das Messiasgestirn und die Jupiter-Saturn-Konjunktion des Jahres 7 v. Chr. Gelbe Hefte, 16. Jahrg., Sept. 1940: 360–369. DCU

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Contents: Die astronomischen Feststellungen über den Stern der Weisen, insbesondere die Ansicht Keplers.—Die im Anschluss an eine ägyptische Planetentafel vorgetragene neue Auffassung der Matthäusegeschichte.—Der Verlauf der weiteren wissenschaftlichen Verhandlungen.—Die zu Beginn der christlichen Ära herrschenden astrologischen Anschauungen.—Die Geschichtlichkeit der Erzählung von dem Stern der Weisen aus dem Morgenlande und ein Exkurs über die ältesten Datierungen der Empfängnis und Geburt Jesu.—Der Text bei Matthäus, seine Auslegung und das Ergebnis in Bezug auf Jesu Geburts-, Tauf- und Todesdatum.

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Wagner, Hartvig. Stjernen over Betlehem. [København, I hovedkommission hos J. Frimodts Forlag, 1968] 8 p. illus. BT315.2.W3

Walter, Henry. Time of year when our Saviour was born. Notes and queries, 2d ser., v. 3, Mar. 21, 1857: 231–232. AG305.N7, s. 2, v. 3

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Warnatsch, Otto. Der Stern der drei Weisen. Natur und Offenbarung, 42. Bd., 2. Heft, 1896: 77–90.

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Was star of Bethlehem three bright planets? Science news letter, v. 30, Dec. 19, 1936: 393. Q1.S76, v. 30

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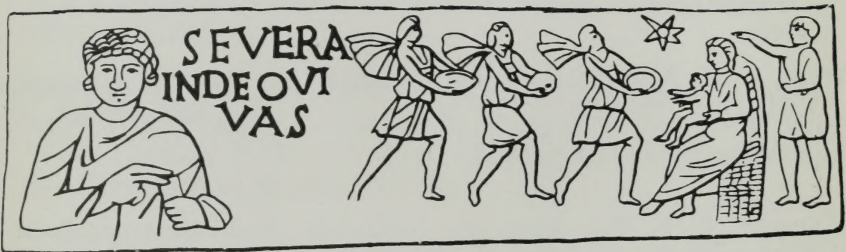
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ICN; ICU; IU; MdBP; NcD; NjNbS; OO

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*Epitaph of Severa. Engraved marble tablet of the third or fourth century, from the catacomb of Priscilla on the Via Salaria Nova, Rome, now in the Lateran Museum. A portrait of the deceased appears at left, with the inscription “Severa in Deo vivas” (Severa, mayest thou live in God). At right the Wise Men, in Persian dress, bring gifts. The Virgin is seated on a chair, holding the infant Jesus; a six-pointed star shines above them. Behind the Virgin stands a young man extending his right arm. This figure is said to be a personification of the Holy Spirit. From Raffaele Garrucci’s *Storia della arte cristiana nei primi otto secoli della chiesa*, v. 6 (Prato, G. Guasti, 1881), plate 485.*





